

Message Text

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S/S-O P.JOHNSON

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247648

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, PLO, XE

SUBJECT: PLO SECURITY

REF: BEIRUT 13357

1. DEPT GREATLY APPRECIATES EMBASSY BEIRUT'S GOOD WORK WITH PLO OFFICE REPORTED IN REFTEL. WE SHARE EMBASSY DESIRE TO AVOID CREATION OF CONFUSED AND EMBARRASSING SITUATION. FRANKLY, PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS TO DATE HAVE ARISEN FROM OUR INABILITY TO DO ADEQUATE ADVANCE PLANNING WITH HASSAN BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF AUTHORIZATION OR UNWILLINGNESS MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS ON KEY PROBLEMS - SIZE OF DELEGATIONS, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, ETC.

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2. IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IN PRACTICE FOR USG TO MAKE

DISTINCTION BETWEEN ARAFAT'S IMMEDIATE PARTY AND OFFICIAL DELEGATION AND/OR INFORMATION DELEGATIONS. TASK FORCES HAVE BEEN SET UP IN BOTH DEPT AND USUN TO DEAL WITH ALL PROBLEMS PLO DELEGATION AND ANY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE MADE FOR ANY PART OF PLO DELEGATION WILL BE MADE THROUGH THESE GROUPS. WE, OF COURSE, ARE PREPARING SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO INSURE PARTICULARLY TIGHT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARAFAT AND HIS IMMEDIATE PARTY, BUT UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT ITS COMPOSITION AND TRAVEL PLANS, IT DIFFICULT FOR US

TO ACT. IN ANY CASE, WE SEE NO PRACTICAL POINT IN PURSUING QUESTION OF SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARAFAT'S PARTY, AND TASK FORCE IN NEW YORK HEADED BY AMB. SCHAUFELLE WILL DEAL WITH WHOMEVER IS DESIGNATED BY PLO RE ARAFAT'S IMMEDIATE PARTY OR ANY OTHER PART OF DEL.

3. IN OUR PLANNING, BOTH DEPT AND USUN HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

A. USG DETERMINED TO GIVE FULLEST PROTECTION TO PLO DELEGATION. OUR PRINCIPAL PREOCCUPATION NOW IS WITH DELEGATION'S SECURITY, AS WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN GROUP'S TO DISRUPT THE SMOOTHNESS OF PLO VISIT TO NEW YORK.

B. EXCEPT FOR 25 MILE LIMIT REQUIRED BY C-2 VISA, DECISIONS AS TO WHERE MEMBERS OF DELEGATION WILL GO IN NEW YORK CITY AREA MUST BE MADE BY THEM. HOWEVER, IT IS BEING MADE VERY CLEAR TO HASSAN IN NEW YORK THAT CAREFUL CONTROL OVER MOVEMENT OF AT LEAST PRINCIPAL MEMBERS PLO DELEGATION AND ALSO OF MOVEMENT LARGE NUMBERS OF PLO DELEGATES IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IF THEIR SAFETY IS TO BE PROTECTED.

C. AS ALREADY INDICATED, OUR AIM HAS BEEN TO GET RESPONSIBLE PLO REPRESENTATIVES, WORKING IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH USUN TASK FORCE WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL AND LOCAL SECURITY AGENCIES, TO MAKE TIMELY DECISIONS ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR MAXIMUM SAFETY OF PLO DELEGATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THIS REGARD, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE CLEAR INDICATION GIVEN TO HASSAN FROM PLO HEADQUARTERS THAT HE HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO PLAN FOR SECURITY OF ALL ELEMENTS OF PLO DELEGATION, AT LEAST UNTIL ARRIVAL OF ADVANCE SECURITY PARTY TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARAFAT'S ARRIVAL (PARA 1A REFTTEL). IN LATTER REGARD, IT DESIRABLE THAT ADVANCE SECURITY PARTY ARRIVE IN NEW YORK SOONEST. IN ORDER ISSUE LATTER PARTY

VISAS ASAP, WE HAVE ON CONTINGENCY BASIS PROCESSED ALL NAMES ON INFORMATION DELEGATION INFORMALLY GIVEN US BY USUN. HOWEVER, IF MEMBERS OF ADVANCE SECURITY TEAM ARE NOT ON LISTS GIVEN PREVIOUSLY TO US, THERE MAY BE SOME DELAY OVER WEEKEND IN AUTHORIZATION OF VISAS. WE ASSUME ARRIVAL OF SECURITY GROUP WILL NOT ADD TO SIZE OF PARTY.

D. REGARDING HOUSING, USUN WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY ON ATTEMPTS TO FIND APPROPRIATE QUARTERS. FINAL DECISION ON WHAT QUARTERS TO ACCEPT WILL BE PLO'S. SUGGESTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT PLO DELEGATION MIGHT BE HOUSED INSIDE UN HEADQUARTERS. USG WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THIS BUT WISHES TO

MAKE VERY CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BE DONE IF BOTH UN AND PLO AGREE, WOULD NOT BE DONE AT US BEHEST, AND ON UNDERSTANDING THAT OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE OFFERED.

E. RE TRANSPORTATION, US SECURITY SERVICES MOST ANXIOUS TO MOVE ANY LARGE GROUP OF PLO DELEGATES ARRIVING AT AIRPORT, PARTICULARLY ARAFAT'S PARTY, FROM AIRPORT INTO MANHATTAN (OR WHEREVER PLO DELEGATION STAY) AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DANGERS OF A LONG MOTORCADE FROM AIRPORT. ACCORDINGLY, PRELIMINARY PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO MOVE SUCH GROUPS BY HELICOPTER INTO NEW YORK. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO GET AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FROM PLO FOR THIS AND OTHER MOVEMENT BY HELICOPTER AS MAY PROVE DESIRABLE. USUN WILL BE REPORTING MORE ON THIS.

F. QUESTION OF WHETHER AND WHAT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS WITHIN 25 MILE ZONE PLO MEMBERS WILL ATTEND IS AGAIN ONE FOR THEM TO DECIDE. HOWEVER, ABILITY OF US SECURITY OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE PROPER SECURITY IN CROWDED PUBLIC CONFIDENTIAL

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OR SEMI-PUBLIC FUNCTIONS IS VERY LIMITED.

G. USUN HAS INFORMED HASSAN OF STRICT PROHIBITION AGAINST CARRYING OF WEAPONS. MEMBERS OF PLO DELEGATION SHOULD KNOW THAT UPON ARRIVAL FROM OVERSEAS THEY WILL LIKE OTHERS ARRIVING IN SUCH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES BE ASKED TO WALK THROUGH METAL-DETECTING MAGNETOMETER OF TYPE NORMALLY USED IN ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS. LIKewise, BAGGAGE WILL BE SUBJECT TO NORMAL FLUOROSCOPE EXAMINATION FOR WEAPONS GIVEN TO ALL INCOMING BAGGAGE. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT, BEING AWARE OF THESE CONTROLS, PLO WILL NOT TAKE CHANCE OF BEING DETECTED IN BRINGING IN ILLEGAL ARMS.

4. BASED ON THESE PRINCIPLES, IT IS ESSENTIAL GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOONEST ON PLANS OF BOTH ARAFAT'S

PERSONAL PARTY AND OFFICIAL AND INFORMATION DELEGATIONS. ON ARAFAT'S PARTY, WE NEED TO KNOW SOONEST WHO WILL BE IN THIS PARTY IN ORDER THAT WE CAN GET NECESSARY BOULDER CLEARANCES AND WAIVERS REQUIRED PRIOR TO AUTHORIZATION OF VISAS. WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW TIME AND MODE OF ARRIVAL; AND TO KNOW DEFINITELY WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS PARTY.

5. RE NINE MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL DELEGATION: FAROUK AL-KADDUMI, ABDEL-JAWAD SALESH, MUHAMMAD Z. NASHASHIBI, NABIL SHAATH, SAADAT HASAN, FAROUK AL-HUSSEINI, JAMAL AL-SOURANI, FARIS ABU-EYTA AKA, ABOU AITA FARID, SAID KAMAL.

VISAS HAVE BEEN ISSUED OR AUTHORIZED FOR SEVEN MEMBERS. WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED REQUEST FOR VISAS FROM ABDEL-JAWAD SALESH AND JAMAL AL-SOURANI.

6. RE INFORMATION DELEGATION, WE WELCOME WORD CONTAINED IN PARA 1(C) OF REFTTEL THAT INFO DELEGATION HAS BEEN REDUCED. WE STILL HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED BY UN OFFICIALLY OF WHO WILL CONSTITUTE THIS INFORMATION DELEGATION, AS UN SHARES OUR VIEW THAT A LARGE INFORMATION DELEGATION WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO PROTECT. THUS, FURTHER EFFORTS BEING MADE IN NEW YORK TO GET FURTHER REDUCTION IN THIS DELEGATION'S SIZE. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GET REDUCED LIST IN NEXT DAY OR SO SO THAT WE CONFIDENTIAL

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CAN AUTHORIZE VISAS. IF THIS LIST CONTAINS NEW NAMES, THERE MAY BE SOME DELAYS IN AUTHORIZATION OF VISAS. IT VERY IMPORTANT ALSO THAT WE GET EARLIEST INFORMATION ON WHEN AND HOW MEMBERS OF INFORMATION DELEGATION WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK. NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO SEAL OFF THIS GROUP FROM CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES OR FROM FOREIGN NEWSMEN, OR MEMBERS OF SOME OTHER UN DELEGATIONS. MOST OF SUCH ACTIVITIES NORMALLY TAKES PLACE IN UN HEADQUARTERS AND INFORMATION DELEGATION WILL HAVE FULL ACCESS TO ALL OF THESE FACILITIES.

7. USUN WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY ON ITS TALKS WITH HASSAN AND ARRANGEMENTS USUN AND US SECURITY AGENCIES ARE MAKING FOR HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTION OF PLO DELEGATION.

8. EMBASSY BEIRUT AND EMBASSY CAIRO ARE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON FOREGOING AND ARE URGED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PLO OFFICES (IN CAIRO'S CASE THIS MAY BE THROUGH GOE) IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE PLO CONCERNS, GIVE US FOREWARNING OF PROBLEMS WHICH WE MAY FACE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION OF THE BASIS OF WHICH WE MAY CARRY OUT

APPROPRIATE SECURITY PLANNING.

9. ALL MESSAGES ON PLO ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING ALL VISA
MESSAGES,MUST BE SENT BY IMMEDIATE NIACT.

10. RE PARA 3C PLO SHOULD SEND NAMES OF ANY RPT ANY
SECURITY PERSONNEL IMMEDIATELY TO HASSAN FOR TRANSMITTAL
TO UNSYG AND THEN TO USUN. MAW

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